

REMARKS

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of dependent claim 2, and claim 2 has then been canceled. Similarly, the limitations of dependent claim 11 have been added to independent claim 10, and claim 11 then canceled.

Reconsideration of the rejection of all the claims under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b), 103(a) over U.S. patent no. 5,410,326 ("Goldstein") is respectfully requested in light of thebb claim amendments and these remarks. Each of the independent claims 1, 10 and 15 now specifies that data of remote control protocols are carried by the video blanking interval (VBI) of a video signal received by a video display system. That is, data of IR codes used by specific video devices (TV, DVD player, etc.) are received by the video display system in VBI lines, and claims 1 and 10 additionally recite that these protocols are then transmitted by the video display system to the remote control and modify its database of remote protocols with which it is operable. The database of a universal remote control is thus easily updateable.

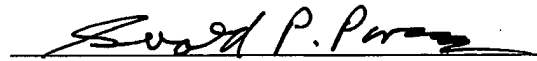
The Office Action alleges that Goldstein anticipates these claims, with reference to specific disclosure of a TV cable converter that (1) receives over the cable system information of remote control codes and icons for services that have been paid for and then downloads this information to the remote control over an infrared link (col. 18, lns. 14-19), and (2) receives data during incoming video signal VBIs of a specific service provider ID to active the cable converter (col. 18, lns. 50-61). But this does not state that the data loaded into the remote control are received during VBIs. Since the video signals are received over a wide bandwidth cable medium, such data could be carried outside of the video signals. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is not well taken.

Goldstein does describe that the cable converter 6 receives data that are then transmitted to and stored in the remote control 5 but nothing has been found to suggest that remote control protocol data are received during VBIs of video signals and then stored in the remote. It is novel and quite useful to update the remote control database with data received during the VBIs of incoming video signals in order for the remote control to be able to operate with new video devices. The claimed technique can be used with broadcast TV signals where there is not the extra bandwidth that is available with the cable system of Goldstein to transmit such data.

Accordingly, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance and an early indication of its allowance is solicited. However, if the Examiner has any further matters

that need to be resolved, a telephone call to the undersigned attorney at 415-318-1163 would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date

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